

2009 2nd Quarterly Programs List
April/May/June
News Channel 8 on WCTX

Quarterly Programs List April/May/June 2009

The following stories and programs aired on **News Channel 8** on WCTX during the second quarter of 2009. The newscasts air five days a week (Monday – Friday 7-8 a.m. and Mon-Su 10-10:30 p.m.). The stories range from 15 seconds to one minute & 50 seconds and focus on the following 6 issues of importance to the community:

1. Community & Diversity Issues
2. Health
3. Education
4. Crime
5. Consumer Issues
6. Government, Economy, & Law

Community & Diversity Issues

4/14/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:17 a.m., 1 min. and 50 seconds

“Rally over Racial Profiling”

Twelve years after the fatal shooting of an African American teenager by an East Haven police officer, allegations of racial profiling still exist. Later this morning the mother of that teen will launch a campaign against racial profiling. Malik Jones was shot and killed by an East Haven Police officer. The criminal case against the officer was thrown out. A second civil suit has yet to be heard. But people in the community say there is still a big problem...they don't feel safe. Malik Jones was unarmed behind the wheel of his car back in 1997. Jones was driving when an East Haven Police officer tried to pull him over. The former Sergeant Robert Flodquist told investigators he shot Jones in self-defense, claiming Jones drove his car at the officer during a chase. State investigators cleared the officer of wrongdoing. A federal jury found Flodquist used excessive force and violated Jones' civil rights.

May:

5/01/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:37 a.m., 20 seconds

“Park Progress in East Haven”

The town of East Haven is finding ways to finish up work at the Candlelight restaurant site right across from the town beach. The former restaurant was ruined by fire but then the town bought the property. Public works will build the splash pad water play area. The materials have been donated and a local

apprentice program is providing free labor to build the utility and bathroom facility. The goal is to have the splash pad ready by summer.

5/01/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:46 a.m., 30 seconds

"Champions in Action Bridgeport"

News Channel Eight and Citizens Bank taking time out to deliver a 25-thousand dollar contribution to the 'Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern Connecticut'. It's all part of the 'Champions in Action' program. The group will also receive a public service announcement... in addition to volunteer and public relations support. The 'Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern Connecticut' is a housing and community development organization. This organization is committed to creating affordable housing opportunities; revitalizing urban neighborhoods and helping people achieve economic self-sufficiency.

5/01/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:55 a.m., 30 seconds

"Miss California Launching New Anti-Gay Marriage Campaign"

Miss California is using her tiara to help launch a new anti-gay marriage campaign for the National Organization for Marriage. This has California pageant officials calling for her crown. Pageant officials say never before has a reigning title holder so readily committed herself to a more divisive or polarizing issue

5/25/09: Good Morning News, 7:32 a.m., 1 min and 20 seconds

"Madison Parade"

Many parades will be marching across the state on this Memorial Day. A group of Madison families, many with children in the military themselves, wanted to revive the tradition of flying this special flag in town and News Channel Eight got a special preview. Thanks to donations and the help of a local flag maker, the tradition is alive again in Madison and the flag drape across route one as the parade marches by.

5/27/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:36 a.m., 25 seconds

"Q.U. Reinstates Women's Volleyball and Drops Men's In-door Track"

Women's volleyball is back on the court at Quinnipiac University but men's indoor track is now out. Women's volleyball was slated to end, but the coach and some players sued, saying the school failed to comply with title nine laws to provide equal athletic opportunities for women. The changes come in response to last week's injunction issued in the lawsuit. No comment yet from Quinnipiac.

5/28/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:01 a.m., 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Vandalism in Shelton Park"

East Village Park in Shelton is covered with obscenities and other racist graffiti these days. And while homeowners are being fined for not cleaning up their painted property, the graffiti has been on the city's playground equipment for weeks. Alderman John Finn is the co-author of the city's new graffiti ordinance and he says some of these 'ugly words' have been here for two months.

June:

6/04/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:06 a.m., 30 seconds

"Special Olympics Torch Run Makes its Way through Connecticut"

The Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" torch is making its way through Connecticut. State law enforcement officers and Special Olympic athletes are taking part in the the annual run. Yesterday News Channel 8 caught up with these runners along *Route 12* in Lisbon. Today the torch crosses into Middletown and a pep rally will be held just after 1 on Broad Street. Later a rally will be held at the state capitol in Hartford. The run ends with a ceremony at the Connecticut Special Olympics summer games at Southern Connecticut State University.

6/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:46 a.m., 25 seconds

"Tour de Cure"

Lots of folks are peddling for a cure this week. The Tour de Cure raises money and awareness for the American Diabetes Foundation. It's the largest cycling event for diabetes with more than 80 events across the country. This is the crowd that turned out at Gateway Community College yesterday. The goal is to find a cure for diabetes and improve the lives of people affected. One point two million people in Connecticut are living with diabetes.

6/22/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:24 a.m., 45 seconds

"ABC Home Makeover"

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition comes back to Connecticut. This time, the surprise of a lifetime is for a Suffield family. William and Catherine Hill got a wakeup call yesterday morning by Ty Pennington and his crew. The Hills, along with their eleven children, four of their own and seven nieces and nephews, have used their musical talents and generosity to inspire their community. They live in a home damaged by a fire in 1993. They have not been able to make needed repairs because of college costs and medical treatments. Carol Girard and her family received an Extreme Makeover home last year and are now volunteering to help build the Hills' new home. The weeklong construction is being led by Pecoy Signature Homes along with the ABC show. The home will be revealed to the family next Sunday and the show will air in the fall.

Health

April:

4/27/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:04 a.m., 25 seconds

"National Response to Swine Flu Outbreak"

Around the world, health experts are wasting no time trying to contain a deadly swine flu outbreak. Mexico is the hardest hit... where at least 100-people have died. The virus has not yet been deadly in the U-S...but five states have confirmed 20 cases. Some schools in New York, Texas, and California will be closed after students were diagnosed with the swine flu. The Obama Administration has declared a public health emergency. The government is prepared to fight the flu.

4/30/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:06 a.m., 15 seconds

"National Swine Flu Update"

President Obama is pledging "to do whatever it takes" to battle the swine flu emergency in the U.S. There are now about 100 confirmed cases in eleven states.

4/16/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:52 a.m., 30 seconds

"Study: People in Certain States more Stressed Than Others"

According to a study in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine, researchers found people in Hawaii had lower levels of stress, depression, or emotional problems than those in the Appalachian region. The stress level varied, according to the state or region's income, social structure, and joblessness rate. The Centers for Disease Control says these figure are important because they give the government a better idea where mental health programs are needed.

May:

5/11/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:20 a.m., 20 seconds

"Health Group Offer \$2 Trillion in Cost Savings"

President Obama's plan to provide medical insurance for all Americans may be a step closer to reality. Leaders of the health care industry are offering \$2 trillion in spending reductions over 10 years to help pay for the program. Today, Hospitals, insurance companies, drug makers, and doctors plan to tell President Obama they'll voluntarily slow their rate increases in coming years.

5/12/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:16 a.m., 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Bill to List Calories on Menus"

A bill forcing restaurants to put "calorie counts" on the menu has passed one hurdle at the state capitol. The bill would require some chain restaurants to tell diners how much damage a meal will do to their waistlines. Restaurants would have to put how many calories a food item has right there on the menu. Many people said they like the idea because it was about eating healthy.

5/27/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:34 a.m., 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Helping Out Down South"

A Connecticut organization is helping kids stay healthy down in New Orleans. Today, "Americares" will donate a new mobile clinic. This will help battle against dangerous childhood diseases.

5/28/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:20 a.m., 20 seconds

"More Swine Flu Deaths"

A fourth person in Arizona, and six more in Mexico have died from complications of swine flu. This pushes the world's death toll to 108. The virus has sickened more than 13-hundred people. In Connecticut, more than 1-hundred cases are confirmed, those cases considered mild, no deaths reported.

June:

6/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:16 a.m., 15 seconds

"Obama Healthcare"

President Obama heads to Chicago today to tout his new healthcare plan to a tough audience, the American Medical Association. The group opposes the plan for a government run healthcare system which would compete with private insurers.

**6/22/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:26 a.m., 20 seconds

"State Health Officials Work to Limit H1N1 Spread at Summer Camps"

State health officials are implementing a plan to limit the spread of the h-1-n-1 flu at youth camps this summer. Parts of the plan include working with parents about how illnesses or health emergencies will be handled with children and communicating about disease prevention. The department of public health licenses more than 4-hundred camps for kids each year.

6/30/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:24 a.m., 15 seconds

"H1N1 Flu Fears- Sixth Death in Connecticut"

A sixth person from Connecticut has died from H1N1 flu. Officials say the victim lived in New Haven County and was between 40 and 49 years old. Like others who died from H1N1 in the state, health officials say this person had underlying medical conditions. Public health officials say this brings the total number of swine flu cases in Connecticut to more than 820.

Education

April:

4/22/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:22 a.m., 15 seconds

"Hartford Board of Education Cuts Jobs"

Jobs including school counselors and maintenance workers are being slashed from Hartford's education budget. About 230 jobs are being cut. It's all being done to fill an 18-million dollar budget hole. School leaders say State Funding did not increase while everything else from salaries to utilities have gone up.

4/23/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:25 a.m., 15 seconds

"70% of 2007 State College Graduates Found Jobs in Connecticut"

A new report shows a college degree will give you a leg-up on the competition. It shows 70 percent of the nearly 18-hundred graduates from the state's public colleges and universities found work within nine months after graduating in 2007. Most of the jobs were in education and health care fields.

4/29/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:39 a.m., 45 seconds

"Greenwich Teacher Honored as Teacher of the Year"

Tony Mullen, a special education teacher from the Arch School in Greenwich, has been honored for his excellence by President Barack Obama at the White House yesterday. Mullen was recognized as the 2009 national teacher of the year. Mullen is a retired New York City Police Department captain.

May:

5/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:01 a.m., 20 seconds

"Defibrillator Bill Awaits Governor's Signature"

Final approval has been given for a bill requiring schools to have automatic external defibrillators in case of cardiac emergencies. The proposal passed overwhelmingly and now awaits the governor's signature. Schools are exempt from having the equipment if it cannot afford to buy the units but donated defibrillators can be accepted.

5/26/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:02 a.m., 25 seconds

"Crowded School Concerns Middletown"

The Middletown Board of Education looking to come up with a plan to deal with overcrowding at one school. Parents attended a public meeting last night.. about the Moody Elementary School. The district also brought in a consulting team to make suggestions. Consultants recommended the city do nothing in the short-term so students aren't moved around too much. Instead, they recommend coming up with a long-term plan that may include redistricting.

5/27/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:23 a.m., 15 seconds

"Hearing for Former New London Football Coach"

A hearing is planned for a former New London High School football coach. The Board of Education's Personnel and Legal Committee will hear a grievance filed over Jack Cochran's firing. The superintendent fired him as football coach in April. Cochran still works for the high school as a health teacher

June:

6/09/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:08 a.m., 15 seconds

"Vote Expected Today on Norwich School Uniforms"

A vote is expected today on school uniforms in Norwich. The board of education is expected to vote at a meeting on a uniform policy. If passed it would require all elementary and middle school students wear uniforms.

6/12/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:12 a.m., 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Connecticut Science Center Opening"

Science Center officials hope to log 350-thousand visitors in the first year of operation. About a decade in the making, perhaps sheer anticipation will drive the numbers up this weekend. The 162-million dollar Science Center is described as the crown in the Adrian's Landing downtown revitalization project. The billion dollar state plan also includes a convention center, housing development and revived waterfront. The idea will tour tourists into Hartford and give it a much needed economic shot in the arm. Mayor Perez hoping the capitol city will become a staycation and education destination for the entire state. The Governor will officially cut the ribbon at noon as the CT Science Center opens its doors to the public for the first time today.

6/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:06 a.m., 20 seconds

"Monroe Board of Ed to Decide Whether to Rehire Teacher Part-Time"

A high school music teacher set to be laid off in Monroe could find out today if he'll be able to keep his job. The Board of Education will consider hiring Masuk band teacher Aaron Barkon on a part-time basis. Students protested his layoff earlier this month. The school system is trying to cut expenses wherever they can. Barkon has worked for the school for five years.

6/22/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:39 a.m., 25 seconds

"Veterans/GI Bill Benefits"

Congressman Jim Himes is hosting a workshop to help veterans apply for nine-eleven G-I bill benefits. The GI bill allows members of the military who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001 can receive up to four academic years of education benefits including some money for housing and books.

Consumer Issues

April:

4/10/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:30 a.m., 23 seconds

"Last Month CT Review Reveals AIG Did Not Break Law with Bonuses"

A company 'rep' testified in Connecticut last month about the 165 million dollars in bonuses. But the state's consumer protection commissioner says his agency found no violation of Connecticut's unfair trade practices law. Despite the review, state lawmakers are continuing their own investigation.

4/21/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:31 a.m., 25 seconds

"Blumenthal Investigates Alleged Electric Provider 'Swindling'"

Richard Blumenthal says he is launching an anti-trust investigation into power generators and the operator of the region's power grid. Blumenthal says power companies that were paid to be on stand-by during peak times refused to provide power but got paid anyway. Blumenthal says he has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to order the power generators return the money.

4/23/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:40 a.m., 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Credit Card Crack Down"

President Obama goes on the offensive this morning. His message for credit card companies: clean up your act. This morning the President will meet with credit card CEO's. President Obama will tell executives he supports more protections for consumers, including: banning rate hikes, abusive fees and penalties and requiring there be easy to understand forms and statements. The President will also ask for greater accountability, so companies that engage in deceptive practices can be rooted out. He also wants to keep credit card companies from signing up minors.

May:

5/05/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:37 a.m., 20 seconds

"Talent Competition Refund"

Some parents who paid thousands for their kids to be in a talent competition have the chance to get refunds. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal says 'the' (tay), the company putting on the event will give parents back the 35-hundred to four-thousand dollar participation fee. The company has also agreed to forfeit 25-thousand dollars to the state. This is all to settle allegations that its contract clause for refunds violated state law. Blumenthal says 95 families in Connecticut signed up for this event and as many as 240 more families from out of state may be on the list too. The talent event starts on Thursday in Stamford and the company claims the event could help kids break into show business.

5/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:01 a.m., 30 seconds

"Final Vote on Bill to Ban BPA from Baby Bottles"

A final vote on a proposed ban on the chemical "BPA" could come today in the State Senate. Some testing has linked it to health problems... and consumer groups are pushing hard for the. Several companies have voluntarily eliminated the chemical from 'baby formula bottles' because of the controversy. The bill passed in the House but appears stalled in the Senate, even though it has support from both Democrats and Republicans.

5/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:03 a.m., 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Credit Card Crack Down"

Today the house is expected to take up the Credit Card bill. If passed and the President signs it into law, credit card companies would be reigned in and the consumer would get a heads up so they don't bury themselves into more debt. The new legislation being talked about in Washington would put a stop on extremely high interest rates for consumers who fall behind. The proposal says if you are more than 60-days late on a credit card bill, then the company would have to notify you with a 45-day notice that your interest rate will go up. This gives families an opportunity to start paying the overdue bill. Then, if you pay the minimum balance on time for six months your rate would go back down to the lower rate. The new standard would also make it tougher for people under 21 years old to get cards.

June:

6/08/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:36 a.m., 20 seconds

"Senior Citizen Fraud"

Folks who market and sell financial products to Connecticut's senior citizens will face tighter rules starting July first. The General Assembly has passed legislation barring people from promoting themselves with phony certifications or professional designations. AARP Connecticut says some seniors have been exploited by financial consultants, life insurance agents and others claiming to specialize in products for the elderly.

6/08/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:37 a.m., 25 seconds

"State Approves Limits to Campus Credit Card Offers"

There are changes coming on how companies can market credit cards to college students attending the state's public colleges and universities. A new law will bar companies from soliciting students under 21 during orientation and class registration. It also prohibits them from pursuing students' parents or guardians for unpaid debts unless they co-signed for the cards. The schools have until January 1st to make the changes but most say the tighter policies will be in place when school starts in the fall.

6/10/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:22 a.m., 25 seconds

"Cash for Clunkers"

The House approved a "cash for clunkers" bill to boost lagging auto sales. This bill would allow people to turn in their gas guzzling cars and trucks for a voucher worth up to 45-hundred dollars toward more fuel-efficient vehicles. The Senate is considering a similar version. President Barack Obama has encouraged Congress to approve consumer incentives for new car purchases, as part of the government's work to restructure General Motors and Chrysler.

6/18/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:36 a.m., 35 seconds

"Oil Company Refunds"

Some money could be coming your way if you heat your home with oil. A Connecticut company has agreed to give refunds to as many as 20-thousand customers. The Department of Consumer Protection and the State Attorney General's office announced customers of 'Heating Oil Partners', who took part in the company's capped pricing program this year, may have overpaid. The state says a lot of folks signed up for the program during the 2008 heating season. But many of those same customers were automatically re-enrolled for *this* year's heating season after oil prices dramatically dropped. If you qualify for a refund, you will get a notice from Heating Oil Partners.

The company has agreed to no longer automatically re-enroll customers into existing pricing plans.

Crime:

April:

4/16/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:04 a.m., 40 seconds

"Officer Injured in Meriden"

Police in Meriden have made an arrest after a police officer was hurt last night being taken on a wild ride. Investigators say Detective Dave Visconti was walking toward the car of a man believed to be selling drugs at Pratt and Center Streets last night. That's when the driver of the car swerved and hit Visconti. The officer ended up on the hood of the car and fired two shots through the windshield. After hanging to the hood for a short distance, the officer was thrown from the car and the driver took off. Visconti has a broken leg and internal injuries. He's in Hartford hospital in serious condition. The suspects name has not been released

4/21/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:21 a.m., 20 seconds

"Craigslist Killing Suspect Due in Court Today"

The accused Craigslist killer is due in court today. 22-year old Phil Markoff was arrested yesterday in the shooting death of a masseuse in a luxury hotel in Boston, along with the kidnapping and armed robbery of another woman. The suspect is a Boston University medical student. Authorities do believe he may have had other victims.

4/29/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:10 a.m., 25 seconds

"Students Report Hold up on UHart Campus"

A dorm at the University of Hartford was put into lockdown today after it was reported that two students were held up. Students at Park River Dorm say two men approached them late this afternoon demanding cash and laptops. The men are believed to have been armed. There were no injuries and no one has been arrested.

May:

5/18/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:16., 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Murder Arrest in Connecticut"

A man accused of killing his pregnant girlfriend crosses state lines and turns himself in. Now the suspect in the Massachusetts crime will appear in a Connecticut courtroom this morning.

A woman, mother of two, and nine months pregnant with her third was killed in Salem, Massachusetts yesterday morning. Yesterday afternoon, her boyfriend turned himself in to police in Norwalk. He will be arraigned as a fugitive here in Stamford later today.

5/21/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:04 a.m., 20 seconds

"North Branford Man Charged in Connection with Half-Brother's Death"

A North Branford man is charged in connection with his half-brother's death. Daniel Fleischauer is facing second-degree manslaughter charges...along with DUI and driving with a suspended license. Police say he was behind the wheel when an SUV went off the road in Branford, and into Long Island sound back in March. Fleischeauer's half brother, 34-year-old Mark Albo, died in the crash.

5/26/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:07 a.m., 20 seconds

"New Haven Shooting Arrest"

A man is facing charges in court. Police say 18-year-old Matrell Wright shot a nine year old boy in the face around late Sunday night a Batter Terrace. Police say Wright is a relative of the victim and lives at that residence. The boy is in critical condition.

5/27/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:05 a.m., 20 seconds

"Police Academy Instructor Charged with Biting Co-worker"

An instructor at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden has been arrested on charges he bit a co-worker. State police say Francis Woodruff is accused of taking Rochelle Wyler literally when she allegedly told him sarcastically to quote "bite me." Woodruff is also a training coordinator for the Meriden Police Department but has been placed on leave from that job.

June:

6/04/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:34 a.m., 30 seconds

"Capitol Threats"

A threat of violence made on a blog against two Connecticut state lawmakers results in the arrest of a New Jersey man. That man is due in court today. 47 year old Harold "Hal" Turner was arrested in New Jersey and now faces extradition to our state. Statements he made in his blog are considered a direct threat against State Senator Andrew McDonald of Stamford and State Representative Mike Lawlor of East Haven. Police say Turner was angry over controversial legislation concerning parish finances in Catholic churches. The bill was withdrawn.

6/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:12 a.m., 25 seconds

"11 Month-old Baby Grazed by Bullet in New Haven"

Still no arrest in the shooting of an eleven-month old boy grazed in the head by a bullet in New Haven. The mother told police she and the boy were passengers in a vehicle that was fired upon by someone in another vehicle Saturday morning. It happened in the area of East Grand Avenue and Quinnipiac Avenue. The child did not suffer serious injuries.

6/18/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:04 a.m., 20 seconds

"Councilwoman Apologizes for Behavior During Her DUI Arrest"

A Glastonbury councilwoman is apologizing for her caught-on-tape behavior after being arrested. On June 2nd, Police arrested Barbara Wagner for driving erratically on the New London Turnpike. She was charged with drunk driving. The audio from a police surveillance tape tells the tale. Wagner has written a letter to the police chief apologizing, saying she was inappropriate, and regrets her conduct.

Government, Economy, & Law

April:

4/22/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:33 a.m., 25 seconds

"Senate Takes up Gay Marriage Bill"

State lawmakers are being bombarded by folks who fear their religious liberties are being threatened by a bill taken up by the State Senate today. The legislature must change the state's 'Civil Union' law because of the State Supreme Court ruling making same sex marriage legal in Connecticut. Because of the intense public outcry, so called "comfort language" is likely to be inserted into this bill re-asserting current religious protections.

4/29/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:21 a.m., 25 seconds

"Sen. Spector Changes Party to Become Democrat"

Pennsylvania Republican Arlen Specter changes parties and becomes a Democrat. The move by the 79 year old pushes the Democrats just 'one seat closer' to having a filibuster proof majority. Specter has represented the Keystone State in the senate for five terms. He says he is unhappy with the Republican party's shift to the extreme right. Specter also says he won't always vote along party lines.

4/30/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:35 a.m., 20 seconds

"State Senate Approves Ban on Idling for Three Minutes"

The State Senate has approved a bill to ban Idling. It now goes to the house. You could face a 25 dollar fine if you allow a car, truck or bus to idle unless you are defrosting, heating or cooling your car. Proponents say the bill promotes fuel conservation and reduces pollutants. Opponents questioned how such a law could be enforced.

May:

5/13/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:07 a.m., 20 seconds

"Law Could Prevent Employers from Requiring Credit Check"

If the House Representatives gets its way... you may no longer be required to allow your employer to do a credit check. State leaders have passed legislation preventing employers from requiring workers... or prospective hires to consent to a credit check. The legislation moves to the Senate for further. Employers who violate the ban could face a fine up to 5-HUNDRED DOLLARS.

5/28/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:01 a.m., 25 seconds

"Dodd's Approval Rating Grows in New Quinnipiac University Poll"

In the 2010 race to keep his Senate seat, things are looking a little better for Senator Chris Dodd. In the latest poll, Dodd gained some ground against top republican challenger and former congressman Rob Simmons. Dodd now trails Simmons by six points.

5/29/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:15 a.m., 15 seconds

"Auto Industry Brink"

The nation's auto industry is set to undergo a major makeover. Within hours, a federal judge is expected to approve Chrysler's merger with Fiat. And GM, America's largest car company, is about to follow Chrysler into bankruptcy court.

June:

6/09/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:12 a.m., 20 seconds

"Rell Encourages Staycations in Bristol"

Today Governor Jodi Rell will continue her pitch, encouraging folks to take a Staycation here in Connecticut this year. She'll be at the New England Carousel Museum in Bristol. State residents get a 10 percent discount this summer there for just mentioning the word staycation. The museum is one of hundreds of businesses and attractions across the state offering discounts until Labor Day.

6/10/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:05 a.m., one min. and 45 seconds

"State Budget in Crisis"

Governor Rell has proposed to raise Metro North fares by 10% and CT Transit bus fares by 20-40%. Critics say that amounts to a tax on some of Connecticut's poorest residents - people who take the bus to work. The Governor's office says the hike is needed because the state is getting a lot less money from the gas tax than it used to because people are driving less. With less gas tax money, the state's transportation fund is running low. The democrat-controlled legislature suggested highway tolls, but that didn't go over so well. So the Governor is suggesting bus and train fare hikes, and democratic legislators and environmental and transit advocates will be in New Haven protesting that idea this afternoon. Their solution is to increase the gasoline tax by a penny a gallon.

6/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:21 a.m., 20 seconds

"Plans in Works to Run State Government with No Budget"

Governor Rell's budget staff is working on plans to run our state's government in case a budget deal is not reached by the end of the month. June 30th is the last day of the fiscal year. Rell's staff says this doesn't mean the governor has given up hope on reaching an agreement with the legislature. But it's still unclear when a deal may be reached.

6/19/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 7:05 a.m., 20 seconds

"CT Retirement Incentive Program Doing Well"

The amnesty program may not be going extremely well but the early retirement program is. Governor Jodi Rell says state employees are signing up for Connecticut's retirement incentive program in high numbers. State officials estimated 3-thousand state employees would take the deal but close to 35-hundred have already retired or will do so by July first. Eligible employees can still apply for the program between now and June 30th.